

#176

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0971/72

19 Sept 1972

Students Prepare Fireworks For Yugoslav Conference

The national party conference may not be a placid event, if Yugoslavia's volatile students have their way. The presidium of the Yugoslav Student Federation witnessed a rare display of Serbian and Croatian agreement. At a 15 September presidium meeting the heads of the two student groups agreed that the party must be ready to listen to criticism. Dissatisfaction was pointed at rising costs in student hostels and the price of meals. The presidium agreed to devote its next session solely to the problem of students' standard of living.

The meeting went on record in opposition to the upcoming conference as a one-sided forum for the discussion of political and economic problems of the younger generation. In addition, those gathered proposed that Yugoslavia's youth bring the problems of society as a whole--its trends and weaknesses--into the party forum.

One meeting does not give a clear reading on Yugoslavia's student population, but bread-and-butter issues have been surfacing with an increasingly nasty tone. Tito's recent pronouncements have indicated that he wants a party conference of accomplishments and not arguments. He is in no mood to tolerate student criticism or opposition to his plans. The battle lines in what could prove to be a hot November may already be being drawn.

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East Germans Blast Arab Disunity

Reflecting the Communist world's growing frustration over the current state of affairs in the Middle East, Pankow has singled out inter-Arab discord as a principle cause of their problems. An East German editorial has cited the advantage that Israel, as the "aggressor state", derives from the fact that "imperialist and Arab reactionary circles" prevent the

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formation of a "progressive unity front." "The events of the past few days", the editorial adds, "should cause the Arab governments to draw "realistic conclusions", which means they should look to their "own political positions." The editorial states that "crass differences" between the states and social systems within the Arab League and the ties between such countries as Saudi Arabia and US oil interests prevent effective "anti-imperialist" actions.

The clincher in the article was the accusation that in allowing the "friendly Soviet-Arab alliance" to be undermined, the Arab states (read Cairo) play into the hands of the Israelis. The East Germans, who have been trying to guard their own relations with the Arab states since the Munich killings, nevertheless could not resist the temptation to stick a finger in Sadat's eye.

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